GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2449
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
PERMISSION TO UPLINK ON KU BAND
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has circulated a note among the home, defence, external affairs and finance ministries as a first step towards seeking a conscious and collective view of the Union Cabinet on the Star TV application for uplinking from India;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has also received a representation from the 16 teleport operators seeking permission to uplink on the KU band as well;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has received replies from the other ministries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e): As per extant policy, all TV channels irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions. The policy regarding foreign owned TV news channels is being re-looked. For this inter-Ministerial consultations have been held and the matter will be taken to the Cabinet for consideration shortly. Some requests for uplinking in KU band have been received, but for the present KU Band uplinking is permitted, for DTH service only.